

minidoka internment national monument

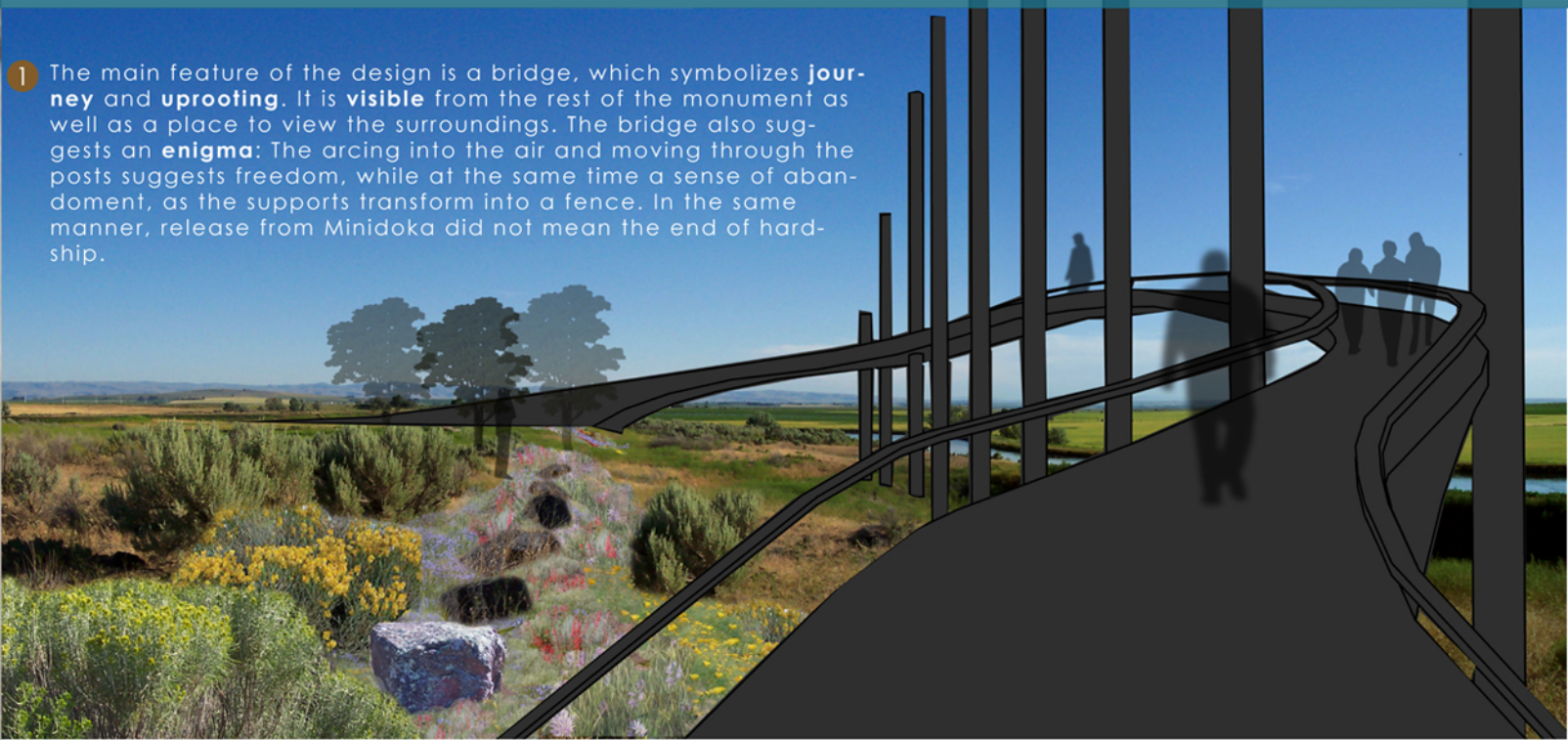
ISSEI MEMORIAL: UPROOTING AND CROSSING OVER

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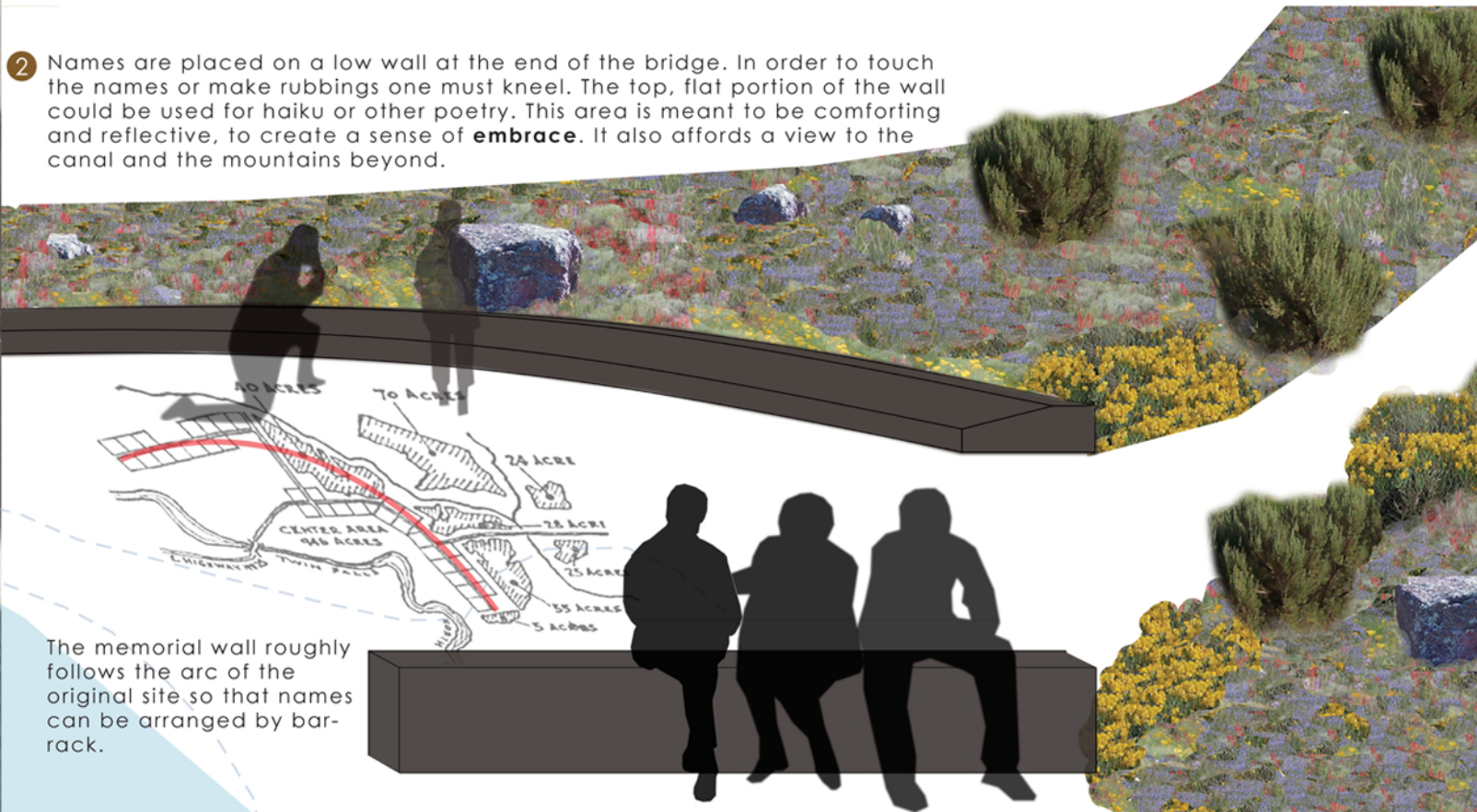
This design explores themes expressed by a group at the Minidoka Pilgrimage: **uprooting** and **crossing** great distances and creating a life of dignity through multiple hardships. It is meant to be **visible** from the rest of the monument, to demonstrate the **harsh** conditions of internment and to honor how the Issei **refined** and **adapted** these conditions. While it reflects the **original environment** it also creates a sense of **embrace, contemplation** and **peace**. It does not seek specific interpretation but looks to evoke sensations of strength, abandonment, freedom, peace, foreboding and **enigma**.

1 The main feature of the design is a bridge, which symbolizes **journey** and **uprooting**. It is **visible** from the rest of the monument as well as a place to view the surroundings. The bridge also suggests an **enigma**: The arcing into the air and moving through the posts suggests freedom, while at the same time a sense of abandonment, as the supports transform into a fence. In the same manner, release from Minidoka did not mean the end of hardship.



The gardens use native plants similar to what the Issei had available. This is meant to contrast with the existing landscape and suggest the **refinement** the Issei achieved in **harsh** conditions. The garden along the bridge is suggestive of the ebb and flow of fortunes along the journey. As the bridge moves outward behind the wall of posts the gardens dwindle. Like the paradox of the bridge, the garden suggests periods of abundance and freedom as well as times spent in hardship. This arrangement allows the site to be experienced in either direction and promotes many interpretations.

2 Names are placed on a low wall at the end of the bridge. In order to touch the names or make rubbings one must kneel. The top, flat portion of the wall could be used for haiku or other poetry. This area is meant to be comforting and reflective, to create a sense of **embrace**. It also affords a view to the canal and the mountains beyond.



The memorial wall roughly follows the arc of the original site so that names can be arranged by barrack.